

## *Meeting Notes*

**Project:** Gas Works Park  
**Date:** May 15th, 2003  
**Location:** Hamilton Middle School

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**Time:** 7:00 PM

In addition to members of the public (please reference sign in sheets), the meeting was attended and facilitated by:

Tim Motzer, Project Manager, Seattle Parks and Recreation  
Mareatha Counts, Seattle Parks and Recreation  
Jeff Girvin, The Berger Partnership  
Guy Michaelsen, The Berger Partnership  
Elizabeta Stacishin, The Berger Partnership

**Purpose:** Community Meeting #4, Presentation of Gas Works NW Corner design responses to directives of Parks Board.

### **Meeting Summary:**

#### Introduction

Tim Motzer introduced the project:

1. Outlining “how we got here”, including a summary of the last meeting and next steps in the process.
2. Describing proposed future process and schedule.
3. Reviewing policy and decision-making process and policy regarding off-leash area.
4. Review of Parks Board discussion and directives.
5. Review PROVIEW preferences.

#### Design Presentation

Guy Michaelsen presented the “Proposed Plan” which the parks board had reviewed and on which they based their directive for revisions. Two response plans were then presented; Alternative “L”, minimizing tree removal while maintaining the same design character of the “proposed plan” and Alternative “R”, which preserves all sycamores and cedars at the “railroad berm” and modifies the design character with a more introverted character as a “sanctuary” from the rest of the park. Visual Simulations of design alternatives and the respective impacts of tree removal and proposed planting were presented showing images from three separate points. In presenting the alternatives, care was taken to describe the impact to the design and the function of the NW corner relative to the park as a whole.

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### Community Comment

Through a show of hands it was evident that the majority of those present had not attended any of the previous public meetings for the Gas Works Park Improvement Project.

Attendees of the meeting were provided the opportunity to comment regarding the presented alternatives. Community members were also notified of ability to submit written comments on the project. The following is a general summary of comments and issues, not a record of every comment or commenter (In addition to the comments noted below, a summary of comments/ideas/input were recorded by a representative of Seattle Parks and Recreation).

- Attendee spoke against the removal of any trees.
- Requested that all removed trees be replaced with specimens of equal size.
- The block views only impact 15% of the people while those trees can be enjoyed by all.
- Economic value of the existing living trees versus cut is much higher.
- Attendee was aware of all prior meetings, is shocked by the proposal to cut trees, that was unimaginable, hence their absence from prior public meetings.
- Trees serve as screen from increasing development encroaching on the park.
- Before making any other improvements, replant missing trees to the east.
- Strongly supports the no impact alternative and believes that the picnic area can still be made to work.
- Sweeping path connection (in “proposed” and ‘L’) is unnecessary.
- Suggested that the existing Gas Works Park design supports the concept of separate rooms, and that therefore there is no need to visually or spatially connect the two parts of the park.
- Emphasized desire for replanting the missing cedars to the east.
- Proposed to maintain the existing park first i.e. the towers, the pavilions and mending the cedar tree screen.
- Fill material currently on site should be removed.
- Existing wall should be preserved with very minor modifications.
- Path currently proposed through the NW corner should be eliminated, and the existing path adjacent to parking be enhanced.

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- Path seems to justify the removal of trees while that is probably not necessary.
- Two wells (geotech borings) are on site, wonders if contamination is an issue.
- Baby birds were killed when the parks department did a massive tree-cutting spree on Queen Ann Hill. Their policies are incomprehensible. What is happening to Gas Works fits within this pattern.
- Provide tree habitat for kids to play in and amongst.
- Keep volunteer Madrona on site.
- Calculate the carbon footprint of the project. Keeping the existing trees can only help compensate the construction impacts, do not grade site.
- Preserve and plant more Madrona.
- Help prevent the extinction of spaces. We need all types of spaces in our parks, open as well as sheltered.
- Respects the sincere effort from the design team to respond to the numerous comments from each of the past community meetings which he attended.
- Believes that the recommended proposal does in fact, reflect the vast array of public input.
- Trusts the project designers to proceed with the best interest of the park and public in mind.
- Attendee notes "suspiciousness" at certain groups/individuals deliberately excluded from design process.
- Attendee notes that debate is being polarized neighbor against neighbor and condo owners being unfairly singled out for criticism.
- Safety is still important, concerned that eliminating outward visual connections will cause the NW corner to be unsafe. Many illegal activities currently take place in that site. This can only change if the area is exposed from as many angles as possible.
- Keeping the wall at the northwest corner is important but it must be safe.
- Suggested removing just the south portion of the wall and leaving most of the existing north wall intact.
- Attendee did not attend other meeting, but feels participants in previous meetings did not understand that trees were being cut. The proposed visual corridors did not necessarily convey the removal of existing trees.

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Meeting Wrap-Up:

**Tim outlined next steps for the design and community input process, specifically noting the Parks Board Meeting on 5/22/03.**